

Children's Defense Fund®

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Healthy Ties: The Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guide to Health Insurance for Children

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICAID AND THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)

Join the Movement to Leave No Child Behind®!

Making sure that all children have access to quality health insurance is an important first step in giving them the tools they need to grow into healthy and productive adults. Understandably, health insurance alone is not enough. Children also need a good education, quality child care, safe places to live and play, and income supports to help their families stay out of poverty. Some children may also need help to take care of their special needs.

The mission of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) is to *Leave No Child Behind*® and to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start*, and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. Over the months and years ahead, CDF will be calling upon committed parents, grandparents, and other relative caregivers like you to help make this vision a reality for all American children. To get involved with other concerned individuals, children's advocacy organizations, and community and faith-based groups in the national *Movement to Leave No Child Behind*®, call 1-800-CDF-1200, visit our Web site at www.childrensdefense.org or write us at: The Movement to Leave No Child Behind®, Children's Defense Fund, 25 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

CDF encourages you to copy and share this brochure with others.

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All Children Deserve a Healthy Start in Life

Are you a grandparent or other relative raising another family member's children? You are not alone. More than two million children are being raised by relatives because their parents cannot care for them. Regular medical care is important to help the children you are raising grow up healthy and happy. Like many relative caregivers, however, you may be worried because you do not have health insurance or because your own health insurance will not cover the children under your care.

There is good news for your family! Free and low-cost health insurance is available to eligible children through two national programs: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). These programs cover the cost of most regular check-ups, dental visits, hospital care, immunizations, prescription drugs, and more.

This brochure tells you how to enroll the children you are raising in Medicaid and CHIP. Another CDF report, *Healthy Ties*: *Ensuring Health Coverage for Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives*, provides a more detailed look at Medicaid and CHIP.



What Are Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and How Do They Work?

What are Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)?

Medicaid is a health insurance program that covers the costs of medical care for eligible low-income children and adults. The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides health insurance coverage for uninsured children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid but who cannot afford the high cost of private health insurance. In some states, Medicaid and CHIP are separate programs. Other states have combined them into one health insurance program for children. Some states have different names for their Medicaid and CHIP programs. See pages 30-45 of this brochure to find out the contact information for the Medicaid and CHIP programs in your state.

What services do Medicaid and CHIP cover?

Medicaid covers most basic health care for children, including doctor visits, prescriptions, and hospital costs. All children who are eligible for Medicaid are also eligible for the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (or EPSDT) program. EPSDT provides children with preventive testing, health screenings, and regular check-ups. It also covers the cost of comprehensive treatment for most problems that are found in these EPSDT check-ups, including treatment for mental health conditions. Depending on the state, CHIP programs usually cover most basic health care services such as regular check-ups, immunizations, hospital care, prescription drugs, dental care, and eyeglasses. Unfortunately, every state's CHIP program does not cover all necessary specialized health services or may greatly limit the use of services, such as certain dental procedures and some medical equipment.

What services do Medicaid and CHIP cover for children with special physical and mental health needs?

Medicaid covers the cost of all "medically necessary" services that are found in a child's preventive health check-ups, including care for special physical and mental health needs. State programs that combine Medicaid and CHIP into one health insurance program for children also cover the cost of most services for children with special needs. Each state's CHIP program covers different services for children with special needs. Some states cover more services than others. Check with your state Medicaid or CHIP representative to learn more about what benefits are available for children with special physical and mental health needs. See pages 30-45 of this brochure for the phone numbers and Web sites of the Medicaid and CHIP programs in your state.

Will it cost anything to enroll the child I am raising in Medicaid or CHIP?

If the child you are raising is eligible for Medicaid, coverage is free. Some states may charge nominal premiums or co-payments for CHIP coverage, but often a child's income is low enough to exempt him or her from these fees.

Will I be allowed to choose the doctor for the child I am raising?

Not all doctors accept Medicaid and CHIP coverage. If your child already has a doctor, you should call him or her directly to find out if the doctor accepts Medicaid and CHIP. If your child does not already have a doctor, most states will allow you to pick one from a list of medical service providers who participate in the state's Medicaid or CHIP program.

Will Medicaid and CHIP cover the child I am raising while he or she is traveling in another state?

It depends. Some states' Medicaid and CHIP programs have agreements with other states to cover the cost of medical care while the child is traveling outside his or her home state. Sometimes the doctor or hospital that treats the out-of-state child decides whether or not to accept another state's Medicaid or CHIP coverage. In other cases, the state's Medicaid or CHIP program may choose not to cover a child while he or she is traveling in another state. Check with your state's Medicaid or CHIP representative to see what services are covered before your child travels outside of the state.

Will Medicaid and CHIP continue to cover the child I am raising if we move to another state?

No. If you and the child you are raising move to another state and intend to stay there, you will have to reapply for Medicaid or CHIP coverage for the child in the new state. If you know ahead of time that you are going to move, you should call the new state's Medicaid or CHIP agency to start the enrollment process as soon as possible.

How Are Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Determined?

How do I find out if my child is eligible for Medicaid or CHIP?

Most children being raised by grandparents and other relatives are eligible for Medicaid. This is because in such cases states generally count *only* the child's income in deciding whether a child is eligible for Medicaid. States generally do *not* count the income and assets of grandparents and other relative caregivers. In rare cases, the child's income (from child support payments, parental death benefits, or income from a private trust, for example) may be too high for Medicaid but may qualify him or her for the state's CHIP program. Medicaid and CHIP generally cover children up to age 19, although a few states may extend coverage to children up to age 21. To find out more information about the eligibility of the child you are raising, call 1-877-KIDS-NOW. You will be automatically connected to your state's Medicaid and CHIP information hotline. You can also log on to CDF's Sign Them Up! Web site at www.childrensdefense.org/signthemuphealthy.htm, which will link you to the Medicaid or CHIP Web site in your state.

As a grandparent or other relative caregiver, can I get health insurance coverage for myself under Medicaid or CHIP?

Depending on your income, you may qualify for Medicaid coverage as the "needy caretaker relative" of a Medicaid-eligible child. If you apply for Medicaid coverage for yourself as a caretaker relative, the state will count your income in determining financial eligibility for both you and the child you are raising. Unlike Medicaid, CHIP coverage currently is only available to eligible parents and relative caregivers in the District of Columbia, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, but several additional states are now considering plans to expand their coverage. For more information about your eligibility for Medicaid and other government benefits programs, contact the National Council on Aging's Benefits CheckUp Web site at http://www.benefitscheckup.org. The

Web site will ask you to answer several simple questions to help you determine your eligibility for a variety of benefits programs.

Is the child I am raising eligible for Medicaid or CHIP coverage if he or she already has private health insurance?

Depending on the child's income, Medicaid may provide additional or "secondary" insurance coverage for the child you are raising even if he or she already has private health insurance. This means Medicaid may cover some medical costs that the child's private insurance does not cover (such as prescriptions or eyeglasses, for example). CHIP, on the other hand, only covers uninsured children and cannot be used as secondary insurance. In addition, several states require children to wait three to six months after losing their private health insurance coverage before they can even apply for CHIP. There are exceptions to these waiting periods, however. You should ask your local CHIP representative to see if your child qualifies for any of these exceptions.

Is the child I am raising eligible for Medicaid or CHIP if I have private health insurance for myself or for other members of my family?

If you or your other family members are privately insured through an employer, you should check to see whether your health insurance policy would cover the child you are raising. However, like many relative caregivers, you may find that you can only get additional coverage through your private health insurance plan if you have adopted the child under your care. If the child is not eligible under your health insurance policy, you should check your child's eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP.

Are children in foster care also eligible for Medicaid or CHIP?

If you are raising a child who is in foster care under the supervision of the state's child welfare agency, the child likely already has Medicaid coverage. If the child you are raising is not receiving Medicaid, or you do not have a Medicaid card for the child's medical visits, contact the child's foster care case worker immediately so you will be prepared before the child needs medical attention.

Are immigrant children eligible for Medicaid or CHIP?

Otherwise eligible legal immigrant children who were already in the United States before August 22, 1996 are generally eligible for Medicaid and CHIP. Immigrant children who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996 as legal residents and who have been continuous residents for five years

may also be eligible for Medicaid and CHIP. Undocumented children cannot get Medicaid and CHIP coverage, except for emergency care. However, some states cover immigrant children who are not eligible for Medicaid and CHIP under state-funded health insurance programs. To learn more about what health insurance programs are available for immigrant children in your state, order a copy of the National Health Law Program's *Immigrant Access to Health Benefits: A Resource Manual* by calling (617) 654-9911 or by e-mailing your request to The Access Project at info@accessproject.org. Remember that as a grandparent or other relative caregiver, you do not have to supply any information about your own legal status in order to apply for Medicaid or CHIP on behalf of the child you are raising.

Are Native American children eligible for Medicaid or CHIP if they already receive services through the Indian Health Service (IHS)?

Native American children may be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP even if they already receive services through the Indian Health Service (IHS). Check with your state Medicaid or CHIP representative for more information. See pages 30-45 of this brochure for the phone numbers and Web sites of the Medicaid and CHIP programs in your state.

How Do I Get Medicaid or CHIP for the Child I Am Raising?

How do I apply for Medicaid or CHIP on behalf of the child I am raising?

You can apply for Medicaid or CHIP on behalf of the child you are raising by filling out an application at the state agency that administers these programs, usually the state's department of health or human services. In addition to state offices, there may be additional places that can temporarily approve Medicaid and CHIP coverage for the child you are raising, including some doctor's offices, hospitals, public health clinics, and child care centers. Check with your local Medicaid or CHIP representative to see what locations in your area are allowed to authorize temporary health care coverage. Keep in mind that you will have to fill out a Medicaid or CHIP application later to continue coverage.

Some states will let you request and send in the Medicaid or CHIP application by mail. The application will list what documents you will need to send in with your application. Make sure you contact a state Medicaid or CHIP representative to ask if any of these document requirements are waived for grandparents and other relative caregivers. For example, you may not be required to submit pay stubs with your child's application since your income generally will not be

counted. Even if you do not have all of the required documents on the list (such as the child's birth certificate or social security card, for example), you should still submit the Medicaid or CHIP application.

After you submit the application, the state will notify you of your child's eligibility, usually by mail. If your child's application is approved, most states will send you a health insurance card for your child and detailed information about your child's coverage. To learn more about how to apply for Medicaid or CHIP in your state, call your state's Medicaid and CHIP program listed on pages 30-45 of this brochure or call 1-877-KIDS-NOW to be connected to your state's Medicaid and CHIP agencies.

How do I decide which of the programs I should apply for on behalf of the child I am raising?

You should contact your state's Medicaid or CHIP representative to ask which program you should apply for on behalf of the child you are raising. In most cases, the child is likely to be eligible for Medicaid. Even if you apply for CHIP, the child should automatically be considered for Medicaid first. In some states, there is one application for both programs. To find out more information, call your state's Medicaid or CHIP program listed on pages 30-45 of this brochure or call 1-877-KIDS-NOW to be connected to your state's Medicaid and CHIP agencies.

What if I do not speak English?

State agencies should provide language assistance to help enroll children in Medicaid and CHIP, but materials may not be available in all languages. Talk to your local Medicaid or CHIP representative about available language services or call 1-877-KIDS-NOW to be connected to your state's Medicaid and CHIP agencies.

What if I have a problem applying for Medicaid or CHIP for the child I am raising?

If you have any questions about the application process, call 1-877-KIDS-NOW to be connected to your state's Medicaid and CHIP agencies. Remember, however, that some agency representatives may not be familiar with how Medicaid and CHIP policies apply to children living with grandparents or other relatives. If you are told that you cannot apply for Medicaid and CHIP for the child you are raising, or you think you might be getting incorrect information about enrollment policies, ask to speak with a Medicaid or CHIP agency supervisor. You can also check to see if there is someone at a senior service center or children's advocacy organization in your area that might be willing to help you apply.

Once the child I am raising is enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, will I have to reapply in the future?

The rules are different in each state. All states require that children who receive Medicaid and CHIP provide the state agency with new information when their financial or living situation changes, but some states require all children to fill out a renewal or re-certification form every six to 12 months. Many states are adopting simple procedures that make it very easy to renew Medicaid and CHIP coverage. To find out more about the requirements in your state, refer to the health insurance information packet that the child you are raising receives once he or she is approved for Medicaid or CHIP coverage. You can also contact your state's Medicaid or CHIP representative to answer any additional questions you may have. A list of state Medicaid and CHIP programs is included on pages 30-45 of this brochure. You can also call 1-877-KIDS-NOW to be connected to your state's Medicaid and CHIP agencies.

If I enroll the child I am raising in Medicaid or CHIP, will people think I am "looking for a handout"?

Like Social Security benefits, Medicaid and CHIP are government or public programs designed to provide children and others with the healthy start they deserve. In fact, there are approximately 25 million

children already enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. You should be applauded for getting the child you are raising the health insurance he or she needs.

Once I enroll the child I am raising in Medicaid or CHIP, how much will the government be involved in my life?

Like many grandparents and other relative caregivers, you may be hesitant to apply for Medicaid and CHIP for the child you are raising because you are concerned that a government agency will interfere in your life or in your relationship with your child. Like the Social Security Administration, the agencies that administer the Medicaid or CHIP program in your state may ask for some information about the child and communicate with you about the child's health insurance coverage. This does not mean that the state will become involved in your daily life or in your decisions about the child.

Once the child I am raising is enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, can I get reimbursed for his or her old medical bills?

Medicaid will cover your child's medical expenses for the three months before you actually submit the Medicaid application, if the child would have met all Medicaid eligibility requirements during this three-

month period. This "retroactive eligibility rule" is especially important for grandparents and other relative caregivers who find out about the Medicaid program only after they have cared for the child for awhile. This rule may also apply to some CHIP programs if they are expansions of the states' Medicaid programs. However, most state CHIP programs will not reimburse grandparents and other relative caregivers for old medical bills.

What Special Questions May Come Up Because I Am a Grandparent or Other Relative Caregiver?

There is no mention of grandparents and other relative caregivers in my state's Medicaid or CHIP brochures. Can I still apply for the child I am raising?

Often, state Medicaid and CHIP brochures, Web sites, and applications only mention parents or legal guardians. Do not let this discourage you from applying. Every state allows grandparents and other relative caregivers to apply for Medicaid or CHIP on a child's behalf even if this is not clear in the Medicaid and CHIP brochures and application materials.

Do I need the child's parents' permission to apply for Medicaid or CHIP?

No. If you are caring for a child on a full-time basis, and his or her parents are not living in the home, you generally do not need his or her parents' permission to apply for Medicaid or CHIP on the child's behalf.

Do I have to provide any information about the child's parents in order to apply for Medicaid or CHIP?

Like many caregivers, you may be hesitant to share information about the parents of the child you are raising, especially when you think it will upset them. Most states ask grandparents and other relative caregivers to provide any information they may have about the whereabouts and income of the child's parents. However, if the caregiver does not have this information, most states will still process the application. Generally, states request information about the child's parents in order to collect medical child support in cases where the parents might be able to cover their child through their own private health insurance plans. Many states have exceptions to these information requirements. Caregivers should speak with a state Medicaid or CHIP representative to find out if and when these exceptions apply. See pages 30-45 of this brochure for the phone numbers and Web sites of the Medicaid and CHIP programs in your state.

What if the parents of the child I am raising are also living in the home?

If a child's parents are also living in the home with you and the child you are helping to raise, some states may require that the parents apply for Medicaid or CHIP on the child's behalf. Other states allow any "responsible adult" to apply on the child's behalf. If the child's parents reside in the home, however, most states will count the parents' income in determining a child's eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP.

Do I need legal custody or guardianship of the child to apply for Medicaid or CHIP?

Most states do not require grandparents and other relative caregivers to have court-ordered legal custody or guardianship to apply for Medicaid and CHIP on behalf of the child they are raising, with several exceptions. Virginia requires caregivers to have legal guardianship; to have initiated legal guardianship proceedings; or to have written permission from the child's parent(s) to apply for Medicaid. For CHIP, Virginia requires caregivers to have legal guardianship or written permission from the child's parent(s) to apply. Florida and Montana require caregivers to have legal guardianship to enroll their child in CHIP.

Can I still apply for Medicaid or CHIP if I adopt the child I am raising?

Yes. Unlike a relative who is caring for a child informally, however, you will be treated the same as a child's birth parent if you adopt the child. The state would generally count your income in determining your child's Medicaid or CHIP eligibility unless your child was also eligible for adoption assistance.

Is there any limit to the number of children I can enroll in Medicaid or CHIP?

No. Medicaid and CHIP do not have limits on the number of eligible children that a parent or caregiver can enroll.

Will the state count my income in deciding the Medicaid or CHIP eligibility of the child I am raising?

Most states will *not* count a grandparent's or other relative caregiver's income or the value of his or her assets (such as a house or car) in determining a child's income eligibility for Medicaid. For CHIP, Colorado, Florida, Montana, Nevada, and Pennsylvania may count a grandparent's or other relative caregiver's income in determining a child's eligibility under certain circumstances.

If the child I am raising receives Medicaid or CHIP, will the benefits I receive from other government programs be reduced?

Just as your income will generally not be counted in determining a child's eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP, your child's health insurance coverage under Medicaid and CHIP should not reduce the amount of benefits you receive from other government benefits programs, such as your monthly Social Security check or veteran's benefits.

Do I have to prove that I am related to or that I am the full-time caregiver for the child I am raising to apply for Medicaid or CHIP?

Most states require you to state on the Medicaid and CHIP application that you are related to the child you are raising. Oregon and Tennessee require birth certificates or other formal proof of a family relationship or full-time caregiving status to apply. Each state has a different definition of who qualifies as a "relative," but generally these definitions include at least grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, first cousins, and siblings.

Does the child I am raising have to live with me in order for me to apply for Medicaid or CHIP?

Most states require that the child live with the grandparent or other relative caregiver at the time of application. However, several states allow a caregiver to apply even if the child does not live with him or her on a full-time basis.

Does the child I am raising have to live in my state for a certain period of time before applying for Medicaid or CHIP?

Most states do not require the child to live in the state for a certain period of time before becoming eligible to apply for benefits. They require only that the child live in the state at the time the application is filed and intend to remain there.

Where Can I Get More Information about Where to Find Help for the Child I Am Raising?

Where can I find out more information about Medicaid, CHIP, and other programs to help the child I am raising?

To find out more information about the Medicaid or CHIP programs in your state, you can call 1-877-KIDS-NOW, contact your state Medicaid or CHIP

agency listed on pages 30-45 of this brochure, or log on to the Children's Defense Fund's Sign Them Up! Web site at www.childrensdefense.org/signthemup healthy.htm. In addition to Medicaid and CHIP, the child you are raising may also be eligible for other helpful government benefits such as a monthly cash supplement through your state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) if the child has a disability, or food stamps to help cover the costs of a child's meals. Ask your Medicaid or CHIP representative for information about other programs for which your child may be eligible. Remember that these programs may have different eligibility guidelines than Medicaid or CHIP. For a list of caregiver support groups in your area, you may contact the AARP's Grandparent Information Center (GIC) at (202) 434-2296 or log on to its Web site at www.aarp.org/confacts/programs/gic.html.

How Can I Get Medical Care for the Child I Am Raising?

Once the child I am raising is enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, can I consent to medical treatment for him or her?

Enrolling a child in Medicaid or CHIP does not give a grandparent or other relative caregiver the right to consent to the child's medical treatment. Doctors, hospitals, and other medical service providers may only allow parents or legal guardians to authorize medical treatment for a child. However, many states have "medical consent" and "power of attorney" laws that allow a child's parent to give the grandparent or other relative caregiver written permission to get health care for a child without obtaining legal guardianship or custody. If possible, it is important for caregivers to get this written permission from the parent before the child needs medical treatment. For more information about the medical consent or power of attorney laws in your state, contact Generations United's Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children Project at (202) 638-1263 or log on to the Project's Web site at www.gu.org.

What if I don't have transportation to get the child I am raising to the doctor?

Medicaid requires states to provide transportation for all Medicaid-eligible children and adults. The transportation must also accommodate persons with disabilities. This requirement also applies to state CHIP programs that are expansions of the state's Medicaid program. Those states that have established separate CHIP programs do not usually provide free transportation or reimburse grandparents and other relative caregivers for transportation costs.

Help Spread the Word about Medicaid and CHIP

More than six million American children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, but are not yet enrolled in these programs. Even if the child you are raising is already covered under Medicaid, CHIP, or your private health insurance, you can let other parents, grandparents, and relative caregivers know that free or low-cost health insurance is available for their children.

Here are 10 simple ways you can help spread the word about Medicaid and CHIP!

1. *Talk with your local Medicaid and CHIP agency representatives about specifically mentioning grandparents and other relative caregivers in state outreach materials*. All states allow grandparents and other relatives to apply for Medicaid and CHIP on behalf of the children they are raising, but state brochures and applications often do not mention caregivers. Arrange a meeting with Medicaid and CHIP officials in your area to make sure that relative caregivers, as well as parents, are clearly referred to in all state outreach materials.

2. *Distribute Medicaid and CHIP flyers, brochures, and applications in your neighborhood*. Remember to include apartment buildings, local grocery stores, barber shops and hair salons, community centers, places of worship, and schools.

3. *Become a trained Medicaid or CHIP application assistant*. Some state Medicaid and CHIP agencies are training volunteers to help those applying for Medicaid and CHIP to complete their applications accurately. Call your state children's health outreach coordinator to find a state agency or local advocacy organization that provides this type of volunteer training.

4. *Talk to your friends and neighbors about Medicaid and CHIP.* Tell your friends and neighbors about how they can enroll their children in Medicaid or CHIP, especially those grandparents or relative caregivers who may not know that they can apply on behalf of the children they are raising.

5. *Encourage others to publicize Medicaid and CHIP.* Plan to attend popular local events where you can distribute Medicaid and CHIP information in large quantities. You can also work with local children's health and senior

advocacy organizations to create and hand out special materials specifically aimed at educating grandparents and other relative caregivers.

6. *Set up Medicaid and CHIP information booths at health fairs, conferences, sporting events, libraries, and local shopping malls to help families apply.* Pass out information and assist families with the Medicaid and CHIP application process. You can also plan activities for children or hand out donated gifts to encourage families to stop by your booth.

7. *Volunteer for local children's health, senior, and kinship care organizations that are working on Medicaid and CHIP outreach.* Volunteer with local advocacy organizations that help grandparents and other relative caregivers enroll children in Medicaid and CHIP.

8. *Help organize Medicaid and CHIP presentations at community centers, places of worship, child care centers, and grandparent support groups.* Contact local community and faith-based groups and set up a time for children's health outreach workers to come and talk about the state's Medicaid and CHIP programs, including the policies that apply to children raised by grandparents and other relative caregivers.

9. *Ask your local gas, electric, phone, and water companies to include Medicaid and CHIP brochures along with the bills they send to customers.* This is a great way to get children's health insurance information to as many people as possible, including those grandparents and other relatives who may not get the information any other way.

10. *Encourage your local school district to send out Medicaid and CHIP information in its back-to-school mailings.* Make sure your local schools are helping to spread the word about the availability of Medicaid and CHIP to parents, grandparents, and other relative caregivers.

For additional ideas on how to spread the word about Medicaid and CHIP, order a copy of CDF's *Insuring Children's Health: A Community Guide to Enrolling Children in Free and Low-Cost Health Insurance Programs* by calling (202) 662-3658 or downloading the publication from CDF's Web site at www.childrensdefense.org/health-chip_toolkit.htm. This tool kit provides outreach materials, state Medicaid and CHIP contact information, and the names of children's health advocates in your community.

Helpful Resources for Grandparents and Other Relative Caregivers

The following organizations may be useful to grandparents and other relative caregivers looking for additional information to help the children they are raising:

AARP – Grandparent Information Center
601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
(202) 434-2296
(202) 434-6466 Fax
http://www.aarp.org/confacts/programs/gic.html

Provides an extensive range of services including a listing of local support groups for grandparents and other relatives, newsletters, and other useful publications.

Casey National Center for Resource and Family Support
1808 Eye Street NW, Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 467-4441 or 1-888-295-6727
(202) 467-4499 Fax
http://www.casey.org/cnc

Provides comprehensive information about policies, programs, and practices for retaining, recruiting, and supporting foster, adoptive, and kinship care families.

Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 628-8787
(202) 662-3550 Fax
http://www.childrensdefense.org

Provides information and resources on issues facing grandparents and other relative caregivers inside and outside of the child welfare system, including information on federal legislation that helps kinship care families.

Child Welfare League of America
440 First Street NW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 638-2952
(202) 638-4004 Fax
http://www.cwla.org

Offers resources and information on issues affecting grandparents and other caregivers raising children inside and outside of the child welfare system and sponsors an excellent national biennial conference on kinship care.

Generations United
122 C Street, NW – Suite 820
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 638-1263
(202) 638-7555 Fax
http://www.gu.org

Offers information and advocacy materials for grandparents and other relative caregivers, including information on state and federal legislation, educational enrollment issues, subsidized guardianship, and support groups.

State Contacts for Children's Health Programs

State	Agency	Medicaid	CHIP or other	Phone Contact	Web Site
Alabama	Department of Public Health	Medicaid or "SOBRA"	ALL Kids	1-888-373-KIDS	For Medicaid: http://www.medicaid.state.al.us For ALL Kids: http://www.alapubhealth.org/allkids
Alaska	Department of Health and Social Services	Denali KidCare		1-888-318-8890 901-269-6529 (in Anchorage)	http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dma/denali.htm
Arizona	Department of Health Services	Access Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)	KidsCare	For Medicaid: 1-800-654-8713 For KidsCare: 1-877-764-KIDS 602-417-KIDS (in Phoenix)	For Medicaid: http://www.ahcccs.state.az.us For KidsCare: http://www.kidscare.state.az.us
Arkansas	Department of Human Services	ARKids First		1-888-474-8275	http://www.arkidsfirst.com/home.htm
California	Department of Health and Safety, Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB)	Medi-Cal	Healthy Families	1-800-880-5305	http://healthyfamilies.ca.gov/

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State Contacts for Children's Health Programs

State	Agency	Medicaid	CHIP or other	Phone Contact	Web Site
Colorado	Department of Health Care Policy and Financing	Baby Care Kids Care	Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)	1-800-359-1991	http://www.cchp.org
Connecticut	Department of Social Services	HUSKY		1-877-CT-HUSKY	http://www.huskyhealth.com
Delaware	Department of Social Services	Medicaid	Delaware Healthy Children	1-800-996-9969	http://www.state.de.us/dhss/dss/dsshome.htm
District of Columbia	Department of Health, Medical Assistance Administration	DC Healthy Families		1-800-MOM-BABY TDD/TTY: 1-877-6PARENT	http://www.dchealth.com/dchf
Florida	Department of Health	KidCare: Medicaid, Healthy Kids, MediKids, and Children Medical Services Network (CMS)		1-888-540-KIDS	http://www.floridakidcare.org http://www.healthykids.org http://www.doh.state.fl.us/cms
Georgia	Department of Community Health, Division of Medical Assistance	Medicaid	PeachCare for Kids	1-877-GA-PEACH	http://www.communityhealth.state.ga.us

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State Contacts for Children's Health Programs

State	Agency	Medicaid	CHIP or other	Phone Contact	Web Site
Hawaii	Department of Human Services	Hawaii QUEST and Medicaid Fee-for-Service	State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP); Immigrant Children's Program	808-275-2000 (Oahu) or 1-877-275-6569	http:// www.state.hi.us/dhs/
Idaho	Department of Health and Welfare	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)		1-800-926-2588 TDD: 1-208-332-7205	http:// www.idahohealth.org
Illinois	Department of Public Aid	KidCare: KidCare Moms and Babies, KidCare Assist	KidCare Share, KidCare Premium, KidCare Rebate	1-866-4-OUR-KIDS TTY: 1-877-204-1012	http:// www.kidcareillinois.com
Indiana	Family and Social Services Administration	Hoosier Healthwise: Package A, Package C		1-800-889-9949	http:// www.IN.gov/fssa/health care/
Iowa	Department of Human Resources	Medicaid	HAWK-I	1-800-257-8563 TDD: 1-888-422-2319	http://www.hawk-i.org
Kansas	Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services	Medicaid	Health*Wave*	1-800-792-4884 TTY: 1-800-792-4292	http:// www.kansashealthwave. org
Kentucky	Cabinet for Health Services	Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP)		1-877-KCHIP-18 TTY/TDD: 1-877-KCHIP-19 Spanish: 1-800-662-5397	http://chs.state.ky.us/kchip/

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State Contacts for Children's Health Programs

State	Agency	Medicaid	CHIP or other	Phone Contact	Web Site
Louisiana	Department of Health and Hospitals	LaCHIP		1-877-2-La-CHIP	http://www.dhh.state.la.us
Maine	Department of Human Services	Medicaid	Cub Care	1-877-KIDS-NOW	http://janus.state.me.us/dhs/bfi/cc_menu.htm
Maryland	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)		1-800-456-8900 TDD: 1-800-735-2258	http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/mchp
Massachusetts	Division of Medical Assistance	MassHealth: MassHealth Standard, MassHealth CommonHealth, MassHealth Family Assistance, and Children's Medicaid Security Plan (CMSP)		1-800-841-2900 TTY: 1-800-497-4648	http://www.state.ma.us/dma/masshealthinfo/applememb_IDX.htm
Michigan	Department of Community Health	Healthy Kids	MIChild	1-888-988-6300 TTY: 1-888-263-5897	http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/msa/mdch_msa/miindex.htm
Minnesota	Department of Human Services	Medical Assistance Program	MinnesotaCare	1-800-657-3672 TTY: 1-800-627-3529	http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/hlthcare/

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State Contacts for Children's Health Programs

State	Agency	Medicaid	CHIP or other	Phone Contact	Web Site
Mississippi	Department of Human Services	Mississippi Health Benefits: Medicaid	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	1-877-KIDS-NOW	http://www.mschip.com
Missouri	Department of Social Services	MC+		1-888-275-5908	http://www.dss.state.mo.us/mcplus
Montana	Department of Public Health and Human Services	Medicaid	Child Health Insurance Plan (CHIP)	1-877-KIDS-NOW	http://www.dphhs.state.mt.us/hpsd/
Nebraska	Health and Human Services System	Kids Connection		1-877-NEB-KIDS	http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/med/kidsconx.htm
Nevada	Department of Health Care Financing and Policy	Medicaid	Nevada ✓ Check Up	1-800-360-6044	http://www.dhcfp.state.nv.us
New Hampshire	Department of Health and Human Services	Healthy Kids Gold	Healthy Kids Silver	1-877-464-2447	http://www.nhhealthykids.com
New Jersey	Department of Human Services	Medicaid	NJ FamilyCare (formerly NJ KidCare)	1-800-701-0710 TTY: 1-800-701-0720	http://www.njfamilycare.org
New Mexico	Human Services Department	New MexiKids		1-888-997-2583	http://www.state.nm.us/hsd/mad/OtherDocs/NewMexikids.htm

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State Contacts for Children's Health Programs

State	Agency	Medicaid	CHIP or other	Phone Contact	Web Site
New York	Department of Health	Child Health Plus A	Child Health Plus B	1-800-698-4KIDS	http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/chplus/cplus-1.htm
North Carolina	Department of Health and Human Services	Health Check	N.C. Health Choice for Children (Health Choice)	1-800-367-2229	http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/cpcont.htm
North Dakota	Department of Human Services	Medicaid	Healthy Steps	1-800-755-2604	http://www.state.nd.us/childrenshealth
Ohio	Department of Job and Family Services	Healthy Start		1-800-324-8680	http://www.state.oh.us/odjfs/ohp/bcps/hshf/index.stm
Oklahoma	Health Care Authority	Sooner Care		1-800-987-7767	http://www.ohca.state.ok.us
Oregon	Department of Human Services	Medicaid	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	1-800-359-9517 TTY: 1-800-621-5260	http://www.omap.hr.state.or.us
Pennsylvania	Department of Public Welfare	Medicaid	CHIP	1-800-986-KIDS	For Medicaid: http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/oim/dpwoim.asp For CHIP: http://www.insurance.state.pa.us/html/chip.html

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State Contacts for Children's Health Programs

State	Agency	Medicaid	CHIP or other	Phone Contact	Web Site
Rhode Island	Department of Human Services	RIte Care		1-800-346-1004 TDD: 1-800-745-5555	http://www.dhs.state.ri.us/dhs/famchild/mrtcare.htm
South Carolina	Department of Health and Human Services	Partners for Healthy Children (PHC)		1-888-549-0820	http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/DHHS_Programs/DHHS_programsindex.html
South Dakota	Department of Social Services	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)		1-800-305-3064 1-605-773-4678	http://www.state.sd.us/social/medical/chip
Tennessee	Department of Children's Services	TennCare		1-800-669-1851	http://www.state.tn.us/tenncare/
Texas	Department of Health and Human Services	TexCare Partnership: Medicaid	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	1-800-647-6558 TDD: 1-800-735-2988	http://www.texcarepartnership.com
Utah	Department of Health	Medicaid	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	For Medicaid: 1-800-662-9651 For CHIP: 1-888-222-2542	http://www.health.state.ut.us/
Vermont	Department of Health	Dr. Dynasaur		1-800-250-8427	http://www.state.vt.us/health/_cph/epsdt/dynasaur.htm

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State Contacts for Children's Health Programs

State	Agency	Medicaid	CHIP or other	Phone Contact	Web Site
Virginia	Department of Medical Assistance Services	Medicaid	Children's Medical Security Insurance Plan (CMSIP), soon to be the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) Plan	1-877-VA-CMSIP	http://www.cns.state.va.us/dmas/child_health/child_health.htm
Washington	Department of Social and Health Services	Healthy Options	Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Children's Medical Program	1-877-KIDS-NOW	http://www.hipspokane.org/hkn/index.htm
West Virginia	Department of Health and Human Resources	Medicaid	Children's Health Insurance Program (WV CHIP)	1-877-WVA-CHIP	http://www.wvchip.org
Wisconsin	Department of Health and Family Services	Medicaid	BadgerCare	1-800-362-3002	http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us
Wyoming	Department of Health	Medicaid	Kid Care	For Medicaid: 1-800-251-1269 For CHIP: 1-888-996-8786	For Medicaid: http://wdhfs.state.wy.us/WDH/medicaid.htm For CHIP: http://kidcare.state.wy.us